

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DHA-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02
SS-15 USIA-06 CU-02 EB-08 DOTE-00 /071 W
-----062471 250851Z /10

P R 250723Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PRAGUE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3233
INFO AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
AMEMBASSY BERLIN
AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY SOFIA
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 2024

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, SHUM, EAIR,CZ

SUBJECT: DISCUSSION OF CURRENT BILATERAL PROBELMS WITH MFA

1. SUMMARY: CHARGE CALLED ON MFA SIXTH DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR ZANTOVSKY JULY 21 TO PROTEST RECENTLY INTENSIFIED ANTI-US PROPAGANDA CAMPAIGN IN LOCAL MEDIA. CHARGE ALSO REQUESTED MFA ASSISTANCE IN RESOLVING CURRENT PROBLEMS OF AMERICAN LITERATURE PROF. AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY ANDOF PAN AM OFFICE IN PRAGUE. END SUMMARY.

2. CHARGE EMPHASIZED TO ZANTOVSKY THE DIFFICULTIES CAUSED US SIDE BY CZECHOSLOVAK INCONSISTENCIES IN OFFICIAL PROTESTATIONS OF DESIRE FOR IMPROVING RELATIONS COUNTER-BALANCED BY HOSTILE CURRENT PRESS ATTACKS AGAINST US HUMAN RIGHTS AND ARMS CONTROL POLICIES. CHARGE PROTESTED, IN PARTICULAR, THE ALMOST DAILY CRITICISM RECENTLY OF PRESIDENT CARTER, NOTING THIS WAS EXACTLY THE WRONG
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WAY TO WIN FRIENDS AND INFLUENCE PEOPLE IN A POSITIVE DIRECTION IN WASHINGTON. ZANTOVSKY RESPONDED THAT HE PERSONALLY DISLIKED THE PRESS ATTACKS "BY BOTH SIDES AGAINST THE OTHER" BUT THOUGHT THEY WOULD NOT LIKELY DISAPPEAR BEFORE SIGNIFICANT SUBSTANTIVE IMPROVEMENTS TAKE PLACE IN US-GOC BILATERAL RELATIONS.

3. CHARGE ALSO RAISED CURRENT PROBLEM IN BILATERAL EDUCATIONAL EXCHANGES, NOTING THAT FOR MANY YEARS EMBASSY HAS RESPONDED POSITIVELY TO CZECHOSLOVAK REQUESTS FOR RESIDENT US PROFESSOR OF AMERICAN LITERATURE AT CHARLES UNIVERSITY BUT THAT ALMOST ON EVE OF INCUMBENT'S DEPARTURE FROM US FOR 1977-78 ACADEMIC YEAR, EMBASSY HAS BEEN TOLD BY MINISTRY OF EDUCATION THAT CZECHS WISH TO REPLACE LITERATURE TEACHER WITH A LINGUIST. UNFORTUNATELY, THE AMERICAN LIT. PROFESSOR HAS ALREADY RENTED HIS HOME, BOUGHT HIS FAMILY'S TICKETS, AND TURNED DOWN OTHER, LUCRATIVE JOB OFFERS IN THE US. ZANTOVSKY LISTENED CAREFULLY, TOOK NOTES, INDICATED THERE MIGHT BE A "MISUNDERSTANDING", AND PLEDGED TO DO WHAT HE COULD TO HELP.

4. ON ANOTHER TROUBLESOME ITEM -- PAN AM RELATIONSHIP WITH GOC -- CHARGE POINTED OUT THAT WHILE CZECHOSLOVAKIA HAS GRANTED PAN AM TRAFFIC RIGHTS FOR PRAGUE-DAMASCUS ROUTE, THE STATE BANK CONTINUES TO DENY ALLOCATION OF HARD CURRENCY FOR LOCAL PURCHASE OF TICKETS. THE PRACTICAL EFFECT OF THIS IS ALMOST TO VITIATE THE GRANTING OF TRAFFIC RIGHTS. ZANTOVSKY SAID HE HIMSELF HAD MANY TIMES HELPED STEER GOC OFFICIALS TOWARD FLYING VIA PAN AM INSTEAD OF CSA, AND HE THOUGHT THAT GENERALLY THERE HAD BEEN OVERALL COOPERATION BY CZECHOSLOVAK SIDE WITH PAN AM; HOWEVER, HE WOULD ALSO LOOK INTO THE STATE BANK'S ACTIONS. CHARGE THEN NOTED RECENT, FOURTH CONFIDENTIAL

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BREAK-IN AT PAN AM OFFICE HERE IN LAST 20 MONTHS, STATED THAT SOME 12,000 CZECHOSLOVAK CROWNS WORTH OF GOODS HAD BEEN STOLEN, YET PAN AM HAS PAID OUT 32,000 CROWN TO CZECHOSLOVAK GOVT. FOR SECURITY PROTECTION. ZANTOVSKY CONSIDERED THIS A "SERIOUS MATTER", WHICH HE WOULD INVESTIGATE CAREFULLY. (NOTE: CHARGE DID NOT RPT NOT DISCUSS PROBLEM OF PAN AM REP'S INCOME TAX LIABILITY.)

5. FOR HIS PART, ZANTOVSKY NOTED MFA HAD RECENTLY RECEIVED "PARLIAMENTARY CORRESPONDENCE" RE EFFORTS BY MRS. GABRIELOVA TO SECURE THE RETURN OF HER CHILDREN, HE ASKED WHETHER EMBASSY COULD PROVIDE INFORMATION ON THE STATUS OF THIS CASE, AND CHARGE UNDERTOOK TO ADVISE MFA AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. ACTION REQUESTED: PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER WE SHOULD DRAW ON STATE 150740 TO CHANNEL MFA INQUIRIES THROUGH CSSR EMBASSY WASHINGTON OR WHETHER THERE IS NEW DEVELOPMENT THAT WE CAN BRING TO ZANTOVSKY ATTENTION. FROWICK

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Message Attributes

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